

## **Jefferson Elementary School**

Walk in any classroom at Jefferson Elementary and witness a school family celebrating learning. At every grade, one will find students reading alone or with a friend and/or students writing and sharing their masterpieces with friends or family. It is apparent, Jefferson teachers and staff value and are committed to providing excellent instruction each day.

Approximately 70 miles south of St. Louis, you will find Farmington, Missouri, a city of tradition and progress. Jefferson Elementary, one of the three elementary schools in Farmington, houses first through fourth grades. Like the city of Farmington, Jefferson Elementary is known for its strong tradition of educating and supporting all students in their quest for attaining educational excellence to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Over the years, the Jefferson staff has been on course uniting shared visions, expectations, and expertise into a cohesive highly focused, rigorous, standards based curriculum with high expectations for all students. Effective school leadership has fostered mutual respect, trust, and risk-taking among staff, students, and parents. The school administration has valued, supported, and provided opportunities for collaboration and communication among staff helping align district curriculum, assessments, and instruction with state standards. Maximizing our finite resources, grade levels and individual teachers share resources and materials. The entire staff takes responsibility for and is committed to supporting the education of all students.

The Jefferson staff shares common beliefs. Every child can learn and be successful. Through caring and trusting relationships with families and the community, a school environment has been created conducive to optimal learning for all students. Jefferson's progressiveness is apparent through continuous monitoring of teaching and learning methods to meet the individual needs of our learning community. Differentiated instruction within nurturing classrooms has better met the learning needs of all students. Flexible grouping in reading has provided a more prescriptive approach to meet the diverse needs of our students. In addition, curriculum integration has been utilized to increase student understanding by teaching across disciplines according to natural connections rather than teaching subject material in isolation. Supporting best practices of how children learn, is the daily preparation of real life relevant lessons for Jefferson students, utilizing higher-level thinking skills and questioning techniques. Students are assessed frequently using testing results to drive instruction. Data is disaggregated and shared with the staff across all grade levels. With this process and the strong belief in each child's capabilities, Jefferson has continued to experience gains on all MAP assessments.

Because of the safe, positive, caring and welcoming school environment, Jefferson students want to be at school. The student attendance rate has remained high (95% or above). A counselor and social worker are ready at all times to support students and families. Jefferson's counselor provides weekly instruction on character building, self-esteem, and bully prevention. Daily students are recognized for their talents, successes, and accomplishments. Our media center, a literacy rich environment, monitored by a highly qualified staff, is open before and after school for students and parents. After and before school tutoring is provided by staff for students needing additional support in the areas of math and reading. Students enjoy music, art, library, and physical education each week led by highly qualified staff working to integrate the curriculum to reach district and state standards. A highly qualified special services and reading specialists team support the diverse learning needs of Jefferson students.

Our motto: No child will be left behind at Jefferson! Every student – every day!